

The Catholic Library World

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THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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COLLEGE OF NEW ROCHELLE SCENE OF EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, APRIL 18

For the first time a Catholic women's college will be the scene of an Eastern Regional Conference of the C. L. A. when the College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, N. Y., welcomes representative Catholic librarians from the Eastern States. A one-day conference will be held Tuesday, April 18th.

Mother Mary Cephas will be hostess for the occasion and all who attend are cordially invited to be guests of the college at luncheon. In order that adequate accommodations may be made those who can accept luncheon hospitality are asked to notify Mother Cephas by April 11 at the latest. New Rochelle, from

which the college got its name (or vice versa), is a quaint city about 18 miles from the Grand Central Station. It is a very pleasant ride from the hubbub of New York City. It is quite convenient to the metropolis, yet it is far enough away to make one feel the transition from monotonous urbanity.

The program will be devoted to talks closely allied to library development. Miss Barrows will make her formal debut before a meeting of the C. L. A. Mr. Vanover, representing a large New York bookseller, will advise Catholic librarians how to spend their book budget to the best advantage to themselves. Misses Becker, Kennedy and McDonnell will apply their talents to problems about which every growing library should concern itself.



BRESCIA HALL, NEW ROCHELLE

PROGRAM

Eastern Regional Conference of the Catholic Library Association

Brescia Hall, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York
April 18, 1933

Morning Session—10:00-12. Presiding: Mother M. Cephas, O.S.U., Chairman, Library Committee, College of New Rochelle.

Address of Welcome: Right Reverend John P. Chidwick, D.D., President, College of New Rochelle.

Paper: *Some Technical Problems in a Catholic Library.*
Miss Edna M. Becker, Librarian, Fordham University, New York City.

Paper: *Standardized Lists: A Bookseller's Pet Aversion.*
Mr. C. H. Vanover, Thoms & Eron, New York City.

Paper: *The Catholic Periodical Index.*
Miss Marion Barrows, Editor.

Discussions.

12:30. Luncheon.

Afternoon Session—2:00. Presiding: Miss Eleanor E. Hawkins, Librarian, College of New Rochelle.

Paper: *The High School Library in Its Relation to the School.*

Miss Mary McDonnell, Librarian, Walton High School, New York City.

Paper: *New York State Regulations and Standards for School Libraries.*

Miss Anna Clark Kennedy, Supervisor of School Libraries, New York State Department of Education.

Discussions.

Business Meeting.

Presiding: Reverend William M. Stinson, S.J., President, Catholic Library Association.

Report of Treasurer.

Report of Editor, CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD.

Report on Membership Campaign.

The Catholic Library World

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John M. O'Loughlin

Editor

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APRIL 18—NEW ROCHELLE

Members of the C. L. A. in the Eastern States will find welcome relaxation from the rigors of Lent in their attendance at the Regional Conference to be held Easter Tuesday, April 18th, at the college of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, N. Y. Those who were present at the Easter meetings held at Boston College last year were unanimous in their convictions that the journey to University Heights was not without its compensations. There is every indication that this year's get-together at New Rochelle will be just as attractive. It is the committee's purpose that as much time as possible be devoted to informal discussions. This plan will permit as many as desire to voice their opinions with regard to matters pertinent to the C. L. A. and to Catholic library progress. One of the principal reasons why the mid-winter Conference at Chicago was so successful was the enthusiasm with which so many members entered into the discussions which followed the formal papers.

Mother Cephas, upon whose willing shoulders has fallen the task of hostess, will have an opportunity of welcoming many new members who will be eligible to attend a gathering of Catholic librarians. The traditional hospitality of New Rochelle, together with the profitable program which will be presented, will leave a most favorable impress upon those who have lately joined our ranks. There is no need to urge old members to be present at New Rochelle, April 18th. There yet remain four weeks during which religious can marshal forceful arguments with which to persuade reluctant superiors that attendance at New Rochelle is for the best interests of each and every Catholic library concerned. These meetings are not in any sense carefree holiday excursions. They are singular contributions to the furtherance of the cause to which all of us have pledged our loyalty and our support.

GROWING UP!

The February issue of the *Bulletin* of the Catholic Poetry Society of America suddenly reached proportions which were a pleasant surprise to its many readers. The *Bulletin* is now a more substantial reflection of this young organization of American Catholic poets. Its sixteen pages offer the reader poems and articles which presage a growth to the size of *Carmina*, the organ of the Catholic Poetry Society of England. We are glad to note in the columns of the *Bulletin*

the announcement of a volume to be issued in conjunction with the Marian Congress which will be held for the first time in the United States next August. A section of the volume will be reserved for poems in honor of the Blessed Virgin. The *Bulletin*, though still modest in size, will undoubtedly bring to the Society the moral and financial support necessary to its ultimate development. We extend our humble congratulations to the editor who is making such great progress in the face of none too favorable circumstances.

IMPORTANT!

Librarians who have not sent in lists for the book exchange, but who would like to receive a cumulative list of the duplicate books entered in the exchange, will kindly notify Rev. Sylvester Brielmaier, St. Anthony's Monastery, Marathon, Wis., by the first of April, so that sufficient copies may be printed.

PIONEERS OF THE NORTHWEST

It is with extreme pleasure that we are able to announce to our readers plans for the forthcoming Regional Conference of the Pacific Northwest. Numerically, the C. L. A. is none too strong in that section. But there is profound inspiration in the zeal and enthusiasm with which the comparatively few members in the Northwest have undertaken the task of making the C. L. A. and its activities known in what is almost virgin soil. Those of us who live in throbbing centers of Catholic activity take too much for granted. It is only after we read of the tireless efforts of our confreres in the wide open spaces that we are brought to a realization that, after all, our self-satisfying accomplishments are not entirely heroic. The pioneers of the Northwest are blazing the trail! It is our hope and prayer that the work of Father Lawrence, Sister Agatha, Sister Eileen, Mr. Richardson and the others will be blessed one hundred-fold.

GOOD LUCK!

Sheed and Ward, live-wire Catholic publishers of London, have opened a branch at 63 Fifth Avenue, New York. The founder, Francis J. Sheed, became a publisher in association with his wife, Maisie Ward, the daughter of Wilfrid Ward, and the granddaughter of William George Ward, the first of the Oxford Movement converts. Though rather young in business life, Sheed and Ward have been tremendously successful. Practically every well-known Catholic writer in England has written for them. They have specialized in translations of the works of Continental writers who are in the forefront of the Catholic Revival. Sheed and Ward have done much to make American Catholics more fully conscious of the whole Catholic world of letters. We may hope that Sheed and Ward will bring to our leading American Catholic writers the Continental consciousness to which they are entitled.

FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF C. L. A. IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST, APRIL 17

An epoch-making day in the annals of Catholic library development will be Easter Monday, April 17, when the first regional conference of the C. L. A. will be held west of Chicago. Sister Agatha of Holy Names Academy, Seattle, Washington, will be hostess for this memorable event. The moving spirits behind this forthcoming conference are Father Lawrence Piotrkowski, O.S.B., librarian, St. Martin's College, Lacey, Wash., Sister Agatha mentioned above, and Mr. Archie O'Connor Richardson of Seattle. More than once Father Lawrence has expressed a hope that the day was not far distant when the Pacific Northwest would have its own conference. His hopes are about to be realized. The tentative program includes papers by this pioneering trio who hope to plant the seed of Catholic library-mindedness in virgin soil. The formal program is purposely short, for the agenda will be mostly confined to informal discussions and getting acquainted.

There is a worth-while lesson reflected in the preparations for the Northwest conference. A great deal of credit is due to the zeal of Archie O'Connor Richardson, an enthusiastic layman, who by pen and by lecture has been promoting the cause of Catholic Action in that section. Mr. Richardson asked us if he could do something to make the C. L. A. and its activities known in the Northwest. We encouraged his enthusiasm. First of all, he got in touch with Father Lawrence, representative of the Membership Committee, who—but let Mr. Richardson tell his interesting story in what he calls *The Diary of A Campaigner*:

Saturday (Feb. 15th). The revolving beacon light, flashing from atop the Richfield Tower, is sweeping the surrounding countryside, as we speed southward along the Pacific Highway. It is about 8:30 P.M. The sky behind us is reflecting the bright lights of Seattle, the far western city on the shores of Puget Sound.

10:30 P.M. (62 miles later). High on a wooded knoll, the shadowy outline of St. Martin's College group, silhouetted against the night sky, takes a more definite form as we climb the hill and our driver shifts into second. On the inner court—two lighted rooms. My companion informs me that one of them is the room of Father Lawrence, whom I am seeking. The other room is that of Father G., whom my companion has come to visit.

Father Lawrence and I chat, and smoke, and talk of books. As a clock strikes the hour we retire as guests of the Northwest's famed hospitable Abbey located near Lacey, Washington.

Sunday (Feb. 19th). Following Mass, we journey down (four miles) to Olympia to visit the Capitol buildings (nine million dollars' worth) of Washington State. In the afternoon, back to St. Martin's. A visit to the college library, viewing shelves of books, talking library problems, and finally to our car, where, in parting, we agree to put the Pacific Northwest on the "Catholic Library Map." Sixty miles (and two) back to Seattle.

Monday (Feb. 20th). "Blue Monday" after a brief break, as it were, from the daily routine. A half-hearted attempt at writing. In the late afternoon off on a street car for the Holy Names Academy. Arrived at dinner time. Just another Western custom (we mean arriving at unconventional hours). Waiting in the parlor! ! ! Another test of our "sticktuitiveness"! Worth every minute of the long seated session of patient waiting (I have "crusaded" other causes) for Sister M., who went out after Sister Agatha. Worth every minute—because Sister Agatha met my plea with a promise of *complete* cooperation with our new move-

ment and plans. Invitation to hold the regional conference at the Holy Names Academy.

Before retiring—a prayer of thanks for such a glorious beginning!

Thursday (Feb. 23rd). The morning after another holiday! Called Sister Agatha and obtained permission for a Catholic Magazine exhibit at our coming Library Conference, featuring "our" own private Catholic Mission collection of books, pamphlets and magazines (now numbering some 700 pieces).

Father L. of Maryknoll struck with the idea of the Northwest becoming *Catholic Library-Minded*.

Writing (it is early evening) the first of numerous letters to Catholic librarians of the Pacific Northwest, and to the editors of the various Catholic magazines, announcing our Conference Meeting for Easter Monday. This seems a most opportune time for the Catholic magazines to show their wares (at our exhibit) to the librarians of the Northwest, who will guide the reading (in great measure) of the future generations of Catholics out here on the wooded hills by the Western Sea.

Our first request for sample copies is being made to the editor of the CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD, official organ of the Catholic Library Association. Its pages are full of CATHOLIC ACTION plus! ! !

Friday (Feb. 24th). Out for an afternoon stroll. Stop at nearby school of the Dominican Sisters. Explain our plans for "CATHOLIC LIBRARY ACTION." Result. Sister M.—compiled a list of librarians and Superiors of her order and promised to talk up the coming meeting among the Sisters here and there.

Saturday (Feb. 25th). Digging into phone books, old records, etc., to complete our growing list of librarians, Superiors, etc., of the schools of Washington, Oregon, Idaho (and dare we include Montana?). Just a thought in passing. Father Lawrence of the Membership Committee was assigned everything west of the Mississippi. A mile's a mile out here in God's country! And it is some 200 to Portland, Oregon, and over 300 to Spokane, Washington, from Seattle, the famed "Gateway to the Orient."

Mr. Richardson's splendid efforts will result in a meeting of humble size, no doubt, but it will be a beginning. It will establish contacts between Catholic librarians and friends of Catholic library progress "on the wooded hills by the Western Sea."

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A SURVEY OF THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT BY A COMPETENT SURVEYOR

The March issue of *Thought* furnishes Catholic librarians with an informative survey of the Catholic library movement. Under the heading, "Treasures of Catholic Thought," Father Stephen J. Brown, S.J., Director of the Catholic Central Library, Dublin (and the only honorary member of the C. L. A.) relates the story of Catholic library development in several countries. "It would certainly bring a smile to the face of most of my readers," says Father Brown, "if I were to hazard the suggestion that if St. Peter were alive today he might well be a librarian and run a Catholic library. Yet, amusing as the notion may seem, it is not quite as foolish as it looks. After all, the latest successor of St. Peter—the present Holy Father—was a librarian and for the greater part of his life conducted a Catholic library. For if in this modern world the Catholic newspaper, especially in lands in which religion is subjected to continual and persistent attack, is one of the Church's most powerful weapons of defense, the Catholic library is, in one of its aspects, a veritable magazine or arsenal from which the munitions of our defensive warfare, in so

far as it is a warfare of ideas, may at any moment be drawn."

Father Brown traces the development of the Catholic library movement in England and Ireland. We are told that in the former country there are Catholic libraries functioning in various sections and that they are doing yeoman work in disseminating Catholic principles and in acquainting patrons with the elegance of Catholic literature; while in the latter country the famous Catholic Central Library at Dublin has grown from nothing to almost 20,000 volumes, all of which deal in a more or less direct way with the Faith.

In Australia and New Zealand, also, where Catholics are in a minority, such treasures of Catholic thought provide permanent and reliable centers of information on all things Catholic. The author states that although libraries of this type—public, gratuitous, reference libraries, exclusively Catholic in stock—have not been established in more than a few American cities, our country is "wonderfully rich in Catholic libraries of a different kind—on the one hand parochial and sodality, and on the other institutional, libraries." Hereupon are cited several outstanding American Catholic college and university libraries of whose efficiency of management and wealth of volumes there is little notion across the Atlantic. Reference is made to the Cudahy Memorial library of Loyola University, Chicago (here Father Brown's knowledge of the management is far from recent, since Father Kane has been librarian at Loyola for well over a year), Boston College Library, Central Verein Library, Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School Library, Fordham University Library—all institutional members of the C. L. A.

An integral feature of the progress of the Catholic library movement has been the formation of associations. Quoting again from Father Brown: "One of the most noteworthy and hopeful features of the Catholic library movement in the United States is the foundation of the Catholic Library Association on June 25, 1931, with Father William M. Stinson, S.J., of Boston College Library as its first president, and a committee which includes members of various Religious Orders, three of whom are nuns. The foundation of this Association was led up to by the starting of the CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD in 1929." (This last statement, of course, is a chronological error, for American Catholic librarians have been functioning for more than a decade, first as the Library Section of the N. C. E. A., and now as the C. L. A. The publication of our monthly was the natural consequence of our growing library activities.)

Belgium, too, has its Catholic library association, *Fédération des Bibliothèques Catholiques*, as well as some magnificent institutional libraries such as the University Library of Louvain, Bollandists in Brussels and the *Museum Artium*, the new central library of the Jesuits at Namur. However, "Germany can claim what must undoubtedly be the greatest Catholic

library organization in the world—the *Borromäusverein of Bonn*." This organization of more than a quarter of a million members maintains over 5500 libraries with some 4,200,000 volumes. In 1930, a total of 10,632,616 books were lent. In Austria a similar organization, the *Volkslesehalle*, distributes about 4,000 volumes a day. It also sends out traveling book-stalls, organizes lectures and publishes pamphlets. The Catholics of France are scarcely behind those of Germany in activities of this nature. But the activities are more varied. A number of organizations are engaged in disseminating good literature as widely as possible, among them are the *Bibliothèques des Familles*, *Oeuvre des Bibliothèques Populaires Catholiques*, *Oeuvre des Campagnes*, *Union Centrale des Dépôts de Lectures*, etc. Italy, Poland and Jugoslavia, to mention a few, are heralding the call to Catholic Action through their various Catholic library associations.

Father Brown sees as one of the most useful outcomes of the Catholic library movement the development of Catholic bibliography. "Every great collection of Catholic books is an opportunity and an aid to the Catholic bibliographer; every fresh outburst of activity in the Catholic library world tends to the production of Catholic bibliographies, were it only catalogues and guides to reading." One of the closing paragraphs of Father Brown's interesting article should be continually dinned into the ears of Catholic educators and Superiors: "But whatever may be said about the success or failure, efficiency or inefficiency, of the Catholic library movement, there ought to be no doubt in the minds of Catholics as to its importance. . . . Only those can remain indifferent to its future who think it matters little what the people read, or who fancy that they do not read at all."

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MAGNIFYING THE LIBRARIAN'S JOB

EVA M. PERRY

Loyola University Library, Chicago

Librarianship is as old as libraries; and libraries, public or private, can be traced through the histories of all complex civilizations. Pisistratus is credited with establishing a public library in Athens about 37 B. C. Cicero and various other wealthy Romans made collections of books, and several Roman emperors founded libraries, partly with books obtained as spoils of war. But the phrase *bibliotheca publica* is first found, as far as at present known, in the fifteenth century. In 1437 the earliest institution deserving this title was founded when Niccolo Niccoli left his collection of manuscripts to the city of Florence. They were thrown open to public use in a library which is now part of the *Laurenziana*.

The functions of the librarian evolved themselves in natural sequence. He was primarily the custodian of the books, a superior watchman. The more modern conception of the librarian seems to have first reached Great Britain about 1650. John Durie set forth his views in an interesting little work, "The Reformed

Librarie Keeper." In this volume is the first notion of a librarian becoming a book-missionary. But it was two centuries later before this idea made its way to the United States.

The chief reason for the slow development of librarianship in our country were two: libraries in the early United States were small, and the use of them was slight. These two facts combined to make it unnecessary, in all but a few instances, for a librarian to devote his whole time to the care and administration of the library. Hence in school libraries there arose very naturally the custom of an instructor uniting his teaching with the duties of librarian. The same conditions existed in our early Catholic school libraries. Rarely was librarianship a full time job. The work was generally done either by a very busy person in odd moments, or by one who was physically incapacitated for other work. These early Catholic school librarians were often scholars and bibliophiles, but very rarely did they concern themselves much with organized library technique. Their collections of books were comparatively small, and called for no elaborate systems of classification. The use of library books was relatively limited; and hence there seemed little need of systematic records of circulation. Moreover, a librarian who was busy most of the day in the class-room had little time either for studying library methods or for putting them into practice. The whole circumstances of early libraries explain readily enough why library methods were so largely ignored. The present day reproaches bestowed on early librarians are often intemperate and unreasonable. The situation was akin to that which made the entire teaching procedure simple and direct. One man often taught many subjects. It was not an age of specialists, but of all-round teachers. Only when the process of teaching became chopped up into "departmental" sections, did the librarian become a specialist. And of course only then did he become a book-missionary.

The general change in library conditions was linked in another way with the new educational ideas and new methods of instruction. Greater demands began to be made on the library by the faculty and students, and book collections began to increase in size. In no relation of public activity, outside the advance resulting from scientific discoveries and mechanical inventions, has there been more development during the last century than in the library field. In 1894 there were 3,804 public libraries of more than 1,000 volumes, 2,000 college and academy libraries, 1,000 society libraries, 400 subscription libraries and 566 tax supported libraries. In 1929 the Government reported 8,000 libraries, 31,234 librarians, 162,000,000 books. The number of books grew some 1400% in thirty-five years. This enormous growth together with the parallel growth in the number of librarians revolutionized the conception of the aim and duties of the librarian. The librarian had emerged from being merely a passive force into an active force; he

was no longer the "superior watchman"; he had begun to make the books accessible to those who wanted them by cataloging, classifying and shelving the books systematically.

In 1876, the American Library Association was founded. Its aims are: To raise salaries of librarians, to increase the number of library positions, to improve librarian efficiency, to develop the prestige attached to librarianship, and to help the incompetent. All this brought about another and greater revolutionizing of the aims and ideas of the librarian. Now, the librarian began to conceive of his duties as extending to the entire community, instead of being limited to those who voluntarily entered the library. He believes, according to this most recent creed, that he should find a reader for every book on the shelves, and provide a book for every reader in the community, and that he should in all cases bring book and reader together. This is the meaning of the great multiplication of facilities in the library today, the devices for advertising books, the use of entertainments, lectures, exhibits, luncheons—the thousand and one activities that distinguish the library of the twentieth century from its more conservative predecessor.

This extension of the functions of the library in so many directions has primarily come through the public libraries. But its influence has been felt also in school libraries, largely through the propaganda work of the American Library Association. In that fact lies a real danger for school libraries, and particularly for Catholic school libraries. In comparison with the great libraries of the United States, our Catholic libraries are poor and small. As a result, we are likely to develop an "inferiority complex," and to accept without one question the leadership of such a powerful organization as the American Library Association.

Do not think I am attacking the American Library Association. It is a splendid organization, and has done a great deal of good both for the public and for its own members. But we must remember two essential facts about the American Library Association: that its membership is made up overwhelmingly of those employed in public libraries, and that it is operated pretty much as a trade union. Like all trade unions, it has a tendency to overdo, to demand too much, to claim to be of more importance than it is. And its public library point of view inclined it to enter fields which do not sensibly belong to the duties or sphere of a school librarian.

Until recent years, Catholic school librarians who looked for organized support in their work were practically compelled to depend upon the American Library Association. They sensed the need of improvement in the standing and equipment of Catholic librarianship, and there seemed to be no other agency to help them to get such improvement. Fortunately, Catholic librarians now have the Catholic Library Association, made up of members largely drawn from school libraries. If they make proper

use of the Catholic Library Association, they can develop it into a wiser source of leadership in librarian work than the American Library Association has proved itself to be. Our Catholic librarians have the principles and the experience to enable them to promote the kind of librarianship that we need in our Catholic schools.

We recognize, for instance, from experience, that a school librarian is concerned not with the general public, but only with a student body, and that that fact calls for a library technique quite different from the technique of a public library. We hold the Catholic principle that reading needs to be guided if it is to be useful. We are concerned not with the mere question of *whether or not* people read, but *what* they read. We distrust promiscuous missionary work in books, the mere salesmanship of books. We recognize the physical impossibility of putting all the direction of students' reading upon the librarian. The teacher is the first and immediate guide of the students' reading. The school librarian works in cooperation with the teacher.

Within these safeguards of Catholic principle and practical experience, we Catholic librarians gathered in this association have a considerable task before us of "magnifying the librarians' job." We have a missionary work to do, which is already happily begun, and in which we may reasonably hope for rapid progress in the near future. Our school libraries are growing, both in size and in use. Our best heads of schools are recognizing the increased significance of library work. Modestly, discreetly, it should be the task of the Catholic Library Association to promote that growth and that recognition: to get superiors of schools to allot more money for books and periodicals, and to give librarians the needed opportunities to learn and to practice intelligent librarianship. It is part of a sane and sensible "magnifying the librarian's job" to make known the importance of making our books available, of classifying, cataloging, shelving books properly.

I venture to make two suggestions as to how we may "magnify the librarian's job." The first is: develop and strengthen the Catholic Library Association. Talk it up, make it known, get members for it. It is the stabilizing force in Catholic library work. The second is: be modest and reasonable in your efforts to "magnify the librarian's job." In the desire to be helpful don't take on jobs you can't do: for example, reference work for lazy teachers and students. Give help to those who really need it. But let the help given be such that it will help the patron to help himself in the future. Don't think you are called upon to be social leaders or reformers, or that with each book circulated you must stress the importance of reading. Don't consider pushing books as part of your job. Reading for reading's sake alone is stupid. Its value depends upon what one reads, and how one reads. Don't develop class-snobbishness as

librarians, since nothing is more certain to create antagonism.

We Catholic librarians need further recognition and support for our work in schools, but we will get it better if we are modest, sensible, keep our balance and a sense of humor, and if we work together through a strong Catholic Library Association!

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LIBRARY SCIENCE IN THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SISTER M. LOUISE, S.M.

(Continued from February Issue)

The Problem of Leisure

Since the purpose of Catholic education is to prepare for life by proper training in those graces which are required to fit us for our life at the Court of the King whither we are journeying daily, greatly are we concerned with the problem of satisfactorily disposing of leisure in providing for the training of our Catholic youth. Leisure has ever been the disturbing element in the adolescent stage. Statistics show that more than half the number of our high school graduates do not go on for higher education; show no desire for mental growth after they leave school; have no definite plans for leisure; but drift aimlessly on, romantically yearning for an easy and lucrative career. Their first impulse after being graduated is to burn the books—if not the teachers. The situation is somewhat alarming when we consider that leisure is plentiful among our young people and culture is nil. Are we willing to face the humiliation of estimating the reading tastes of our own graduates; their efforts at diversion; their leisure spent with others, spent alone? The library habit, if it had been properly cultivated, would have provided suitable employment for leisure.

But man's physique must be cared for first and more than all else. What becomes of this extravagant training for leisure when youth's mature years creep apace and the physique is unfit for physical exertion? What resourcefulness is then available for human happiness? Are we, too, so industrializing Catholic education that the practical usurps the place of culture? Perhaps we, also, are calling that the best education which teaches how to feed, clothe, pamper and shelter man in the future. We know the purpose of human existence, and that the struggle for spiritual values alone can guarantee human happiness. Such lessons may be found only in Catholic literature. Our young people do read; they read voraciously to the injury of the Gospel Pearl we are commissioned to guard. But what training have they in wholesome reading? Secular reading is harming them much; infecting them with a kind of paganism. You may say that much of the propaganda they read goes over their heads. I wonder! There is more likelihood in the salacious leaving them unsullied than there is in the charmingly concocted potions of bigotry served up to them in the attractive best-seller so easily obtainable in the public library—instilling virtue.

Catholic Librarianship

Up to the present Catholic administrators have been hampered by unsympathetic agencies legislating for us in matters of education. We are of age now and capable of handling our own business of education. If our Catholic high schools are to function normally in the sole business of their existence, then administrators must concede that the Catholic library is the heart of the school, a laboratory absolutely essential to the teaching of religion for the correct interpretation of the relative importance of all other subjects in the curriculum. For this important work librarians trained under Catholic guidance are in demand. The Catholic librarian must be more than merely a custodian of books. She must be primarily a Catholic teacher qualified for the position she occupies. If, as Cardinal Newman says: "It is the duty of every Englishman to know English literature," then doubly imperative is it that Catholic librarians know Catholic literature. But such knowledge has not constituted any noticeable part in the schedule of training in the accredited library schools throughout the country. We cannot be too emphatic in saying that the only proper person for librarian in a Catholic high school is a religious with Catholic library training.

Catholic libraries need a real renaissance, and the urge for Catholic librarianship is of paramount importance. Today in the United States we have ONE accredited Catholic library training school against eighteen library training schools accredited by the A. L. A. And yet we read in *New Britannica* that the library mission of the A. L. A. is a comparatively recent enterprise, established only in 1887. If the library mission is ours by a natural inheritance of the Church accepted by the achievements of centuries, then ours is a serious obligation in this day of rampant irreligion to withdraw our young people from the pitfalls of contact with librarians whose training has been saturated with opposition to things Catholic. Evidence increases that the methods as developed and practised in certain public libraries are not conducive to the fostering of the love of things spiritual. To these very methods may be traced the chief cause of much of the leakage in the number of our graduates who "walk no more with us." We as Catholic guardians of young souls must certainly be aware of the serious dangers to the faith that lurk in the delightful yet insidious atmosphere of some of our public libraries. The influence of vicious propaganda through such agencies is tremendous. Let it be understood here that we have no contention with the American Library Association. In fact, we hold this splendid organization in very great esteem for its fair-mindedness and helpful contributions to education. But we do contend that many of its members are so animated by personal prejudices that they lose no opportunity to malign the Church.

In conclusion, may we remind our Catholic administrators that, although Catholic education has progressed far beyond all expectations during the past

decade, its weakest link is Catholic librarianship. In our own high school, approximately five hundred girls are graduated annually. Many of them wish to elect librarianship as a career. But no Catholic college in the state offers such a course. Catholic administrators are not sufficiently library-minded to grasp the importance of the profession. Perhaps they, too, are infected with the notion that librarians must ever be the handmaidens of the learned world; and for such a menial office a certain mediocrity of scholastic attainment will suffice. Librarianship stamped with this stigma may never hope to attract to the profession the outstanding graduates of institutions of learning. Let us then give to the world the power of Catholic learning by raising our school libraries to their rightful plane as salt of the scholastic earth—we who trace our heritage so high!

(Concluded)

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BUILDING UP THE SMALL LIBRARY*

HELEN SCHNOOR, *Librarian,*
De Paul University, Chicago

Building up a small library is an everlasting task of selecting, sifting, and shifting, with the goal, the eventual establishment of a worthy book collection, wide patronage, expert service, and an all-around spirit of good will. The ideal library, not so much well-balanced as to actual classification as well-balanced to the varying needs determined by the curriculum, is an end for which to strive through years of work; an end which we are sometimes inclined to think would justify almost any means. It is the subject of these means that we are to consider.

The first thing one must have for the achievement of this purpose is backing. There must be someone who is thinking along the same lines as the librarian, or there would not be this attempted development. Should actual and vital interest be found in even one person, it is from this center that the cause must spread. The administration, the faculty, and the student body must eventually be brought to the point of seeing the needs of the library and working for their attainment. The outlook for school libraries has, perhaps, never been so promising as it now is. The knowledge of the function and value of the school library is gradually spreading. When administrators and faculties understand it fully there will be no question as to adequate equipment and support.

It pays to advertise is no more a business firm's maxim than a library's. Advertising is the first means for our use. The school paper may carry a monthly list of new books purchased, as well as a weekly article on some interesting phase of the library. A very large portion of the student body and at least a few faculty members will be reached in this way. If only we make the impression that there is a library, something will have been accomplished. Local newspapers, also, may be utilized. Notices of special collections of books, of exhibitions, or of anything of

* Paper read at mid-winter conference, Chicago.

unusual interest may thereby create a feeling of pride which may lead to active cooperation.

Extraordinary endeavors are often necessary to arouse the faculty. Every possible means must be used to make contacts with each member. Faculty meetings should be attended and invitations to the library issued personally if possible. Requests should be made for lists of suggested books and periodicals. If it is impossible to reach each member personally, notices should be sent. In dealing with the faculty flattery is a valuable tool if used discriminately. Distribution of monthly circulation records showing totals apportioned to each department may engender a spirit of competition. Those members who show reaction in the form of cooperation may be given some little special privileges in the library. A satisfied teacher may become an advance agent for the library.

Although the results of one's labors may at first seem so slight as to be almost non-existent, perseverance will prove how amazingly one bit of progress, be it the acquisition of new books or new patrons, will, of itself, spread out and create others. Once this interest has become really actively cooperative the work of enlarging the book collection is well on its way. Besides the actual purchase of books, the cost of which may be greatly reduced by the astute use of second-hand store lists, many valuable books may be obtainable by donation. In this matter also, one good deed will often create another. Book drives, although they entail much labor and much tact in the disposition of useless matter, often yield a rich harvest. Faculty members may make very splendid donations. Desk copies they have received from publishers are sometimes of no value to them, but of great usefulness to the library. Student donations will consist largely of text books which are, of course, needed. It is surprising to discover how many people have books of which they wish to dispose if they knew where the books might be useful.

When the immediate needs of the library are met, the opportunity comes to build up the special collections which make a library a permanent, reliable source for research and reference. In order to build up each department in this specialized manner, the faculty members could be divided according to their particular fields and one member from each field selected for a library committee. It will be the duty of each member to present suggestions, passed upon by his fellow-teachers in the department, for the development of his section. Then the library committee will pass on each member's selections. Reference should also be made to available lists of suggested books, although these are usually more or less of a general nature. By this method each phase of the development of the library's book collection will be under expert direction.

When the spirit of cooperation and the book collection have advanced to this stage, the problem of building is more or less merely a matter of natural growth. Constant care, of course, is ever needed, but the first agonies, at least, are over and the library has

begun to build itself. The students and faculty are using the library, they are interested enough to work with the librarian to further the library cause and this attitude spreads out and permeates the whole institution, until by its never-failing efforts to serve and serve well, the small library has built itself into a permanent place as an indispensable as well as a beloved part of school life.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Mother Agatha, who is canvassing Catholics employed in public libraries, wishes to thank the following for their kindness in submitting names of likely prospects: Sister Hieronyme, St. Mary's Convent, Pittsburgh; Miss Clara Kircher, 55 Lincoln Avenue, Newark; and Mr. William Eckenrode, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

The library of St. John's College, Brooklyn, recently received a gift of 25 volumes from His Excellency, Benito Mussolini, Premier of Italy. The books are devoted particularly to a discussion of the history of Italy, and the biographies of some of the greatest figures in Italy's world of art, politics and literature.

COMMUNICATIONS

MR. EDITOR:

I am very happy to become a member of the C. L. A. and I am enclosing three dollars for dues. I first read about your organization in some Catholic paper or periodical, most probably *Catholic Action*, and again last week the account of the mid-winter meeting in the *Library Journal*. As my contacts here with librarians are almost entirely with non-Catholics, I am anticipating with much pleasure your CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD.

A. I. M.

MR. EDITOR:

I am sure you will be interested to learn that Mr. Reiner's offer of back issues of *Catholic Action* and *America* which you carried in the current number of the CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD has already enabled several readers to secure needed back issues. We have had word from Mr. Reiner today to this effect. *Catholic Action*,
Washington, D. C.

EDITH H. JARBOE.

MR. EDITOR:

The enclosed check is for membership of the above library in the Catholic Library Association. The utility and necessity of such an organization as yours is very obvious, and I sincerely hope that it will be the means of producing bigger and better systematized Catholic libraries in the future.

Wishing you all the success due to your Association, I am,

Sincerely yours,

FATHER M. K.